

Ulm Pishkun State Park

DRAFT

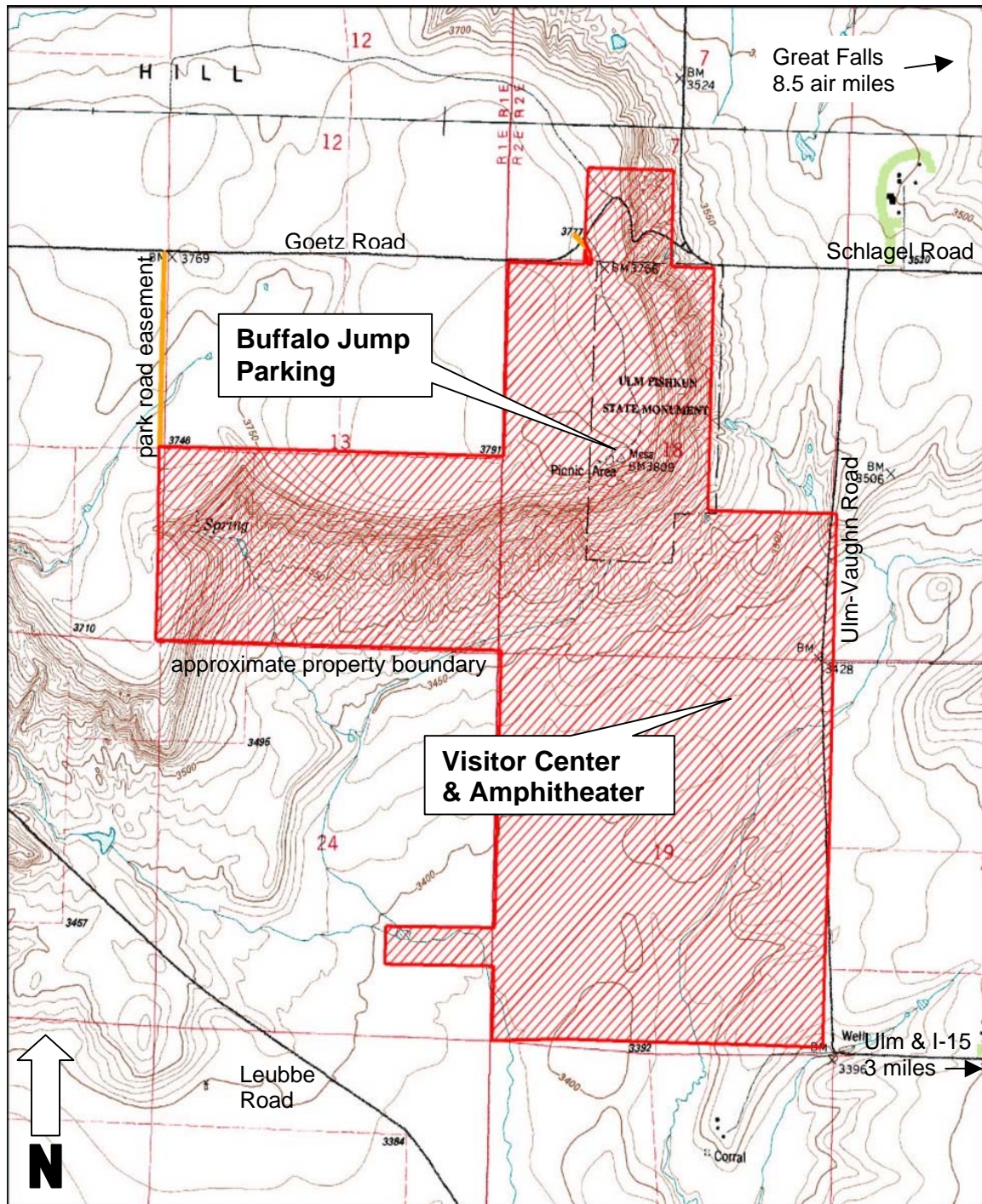
Management Plan



Developed by the
Ulm Pishkun Advisory Committee and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
March 2005



MAP OF ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ulm Pishkun State Park, located southwest of Great Falls near Ulm, Montana, was added to the Montana State Park system in 1972. The site figures prominently in the histories of several Native American tribes and is possibly one of the longest buffalo jumps in North America. Ulm Pishkun is an important cultural and educational site, offering visitors opportunities to learn about buffalo and the cultures that depended on them. The visitor center, which opened in 1999, offers information on buffalo cultures and on the archeological history of the site.

Aside from a 1997 Environmental Assessment for the visitor center, the park operated without a management plan. The 2005 Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan offers a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. This plan describes issues and provides actions for addressing them. These actions are scheduled to be implemented during the life of this plan, but are subject to funding and personnel availability. An implementation timeline is included in the end of this document.

In 2003, a citizen-based advisory group was formed to analyze issues and develop management recommendations for the park. This work included public participation through a 2003 summer visitor survey at the park, a quarterly update newsletter sent to stakeholders, monthly advisory group sessions from September 2003 to May 2004, and a public meeting for the draft plan review in June 2004. The management plan will be reviewed in 2010 to gauge implementation progress and make necessary revisions and revised in 2015.

Plan Summary

The advisory committee formulated the following issues and management objectives. Recommended actions to achieve the objectives are located in the text of this plan along with a schedule for completion of each action and further discussions of the issues.

1. Park Promotion and Visitation

Ulm Pishkun State Park does not presently possess a reputation regionally or beyond as a “place on the map.” Visitation is low considering it is less than thirteen miles from the largest city in Montana and three miles from Interstate 15, a major tourism corridor. Without compromising park resources or the park experience, an increase in public awareness of the park is desired, along with higher visitation. Additionally, the park’s target audience needs to be expanded. Many actions that the advisory committee considered would be components of a broader park marketing plan specific to the park.

Management Objectives:

- Market the park.
- Increase visitation to levels comparable to other parks in similar proximity to large populations and with comparable attractions, such as Chief Plenty Coups and Makoshika, yet maintain visitor satisfaction.
- Provide attractions for local community residents.

- Promote the park through current partnerships and cultivate future partnerships to increase awareness of the park.
- Develop park amenities to encourage longer visits at the park.
- Organize a greater number of well-promoted special events and better promote existing events.

2. Financial and Human Resources

With added visitation, additional personnel and financial resources will be needed to ensure high quality visitor experiences and adequately manage the park. The gift store, visitor center and special events present opportunities to increase revenues through related interpretive and food merchandise.

Management Objectives:

- Provide alternatives to staff service for visitors.
- Expand the volunteer program.
- Increase visitor services and park facility management through additional staff resources.
- Increase revenue generation opportunities.

3. Natural Resource Management

Natural resources in the park must be actively managed to ensure protection. Natural resource management decisions impact not only park resources, but also park visitors, private land, and neighbors.

Management Objectives:

- Set development parameters within the park to protect open space and the viewshed.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park.
- Work to protect the viewshed outside of the park from subdivisions and other development incompatible with the park experience and desired setting.
- Control noxious weeds and cultivate native plants on the property to maintain the desired landscape.
- Manage and interpret a small, seasonal herd of buffalo on park property.
- Develop a natural resource management plan.
- Actively manage a prairie dog population.

4. Cultural Resource Management

Ulm Pishkun State Park is rich in cultural history. There were a number of studies conducted between 1950 and 1995 (see Appendix D), by both professional and amateur archeologists at the site, to better understand the activity that took place there. These studies have looked primarily at surface and sub-surface anomalies present at the site. Work by Fisher and Roll led to some compelling evidence about the seasonal use of the jump, human occupation at the site and use period. Additional work is necessary to continue to understand the jump from an archeological perspective.

Except for a few exhibit items, artifacts from the site are not stored on site. Ulm Pishkun does not have curatorial facilities necessary to properly store a collection nor does the state desire to construct such a facility at this time. There is a need, however, to gain a better understanding of the location and volume of material collected from the site in the past and what resources remain on the site.

Currently little oral history on the Pishkun has been attempted to be collected. There is a need to gain a better understanding of this aspect of the site as well.

A cultural resource management plan should be developed for Ulm Pishkun. The plan should detail how future excavations at the site would be approved including how FWP will involve tribal interests in the decision making process.

Management Objectives:

- Inventory known cultural resources at the park.
- Balance education about cultural resources with their preservation.
- Increase knowledge of the park's cultural resources for increased park staff and visitor understanding.

5. Recreation Management

The park mission emphasizes the need for a place in which Native Americans can share their cultures and for all people to learn about the importance of buffalo. Groups need a place to congregate and to celebrate and honor ancestors. In an effort to expand experiential educational and interpretive activities, more opportunities are needed which are consistent with the goals and mission of the park. In order to increase recreational opportunities while balancing competing land uses and natural and cultural resource needs, recreation management needs to complement resource management plans.

Management Objectives:

- Develop multi-purpose group use facilities at the park consistent with the park setting.
- Manage park for day use, but encourage camping in the local area; provide primitive camping opportunities in the park during special events on a limited basis and when appropriate.
- Manage trail use and expand trail opportunities in the park.
- Minimize resource and social impacts.
- Discontinue hunting and trapping in the park.

6. Interpretation and Education

An Ulm Pishkun State Park Interpretive Plan will be developed based on interpretive guidance in this management plan. As the park was envisioned in part as an educational facility, education and interpretation, including Native American-related programming, will be a focus for the park.

Management Objectives:

- Base interpretation and education on key interpretive topics as they pertain to the Ulm Pishkun site: Cultures and histories of Native American tribes and nations, archeology, prairie ecosystem, geology, and settlement history.
- Focus on identified audiences for interpretation and develop programming to meet their needs and interests: Schools, adults, the general public, area residents.
- Design and implement interpretation and education to enhance the visitor experience beyond current park exhibits and interpretive signing.
- Increase attention on the site's archeological resources and history through an archeological investigation on-site.
- Enhance adult educational opportunities and programming.

7. Facilities and Services

As park visitation increases, parking will be inadequate. Additional personnel will be needed to maintain visitor services. Increased facilities and maintenance will require added storage and office space. With such growth comes a concern for impacts on the visitor experience, and a need to manage effects of increased group use and any new development, such as the group use area and added trails. Also, infrastructure and facility maintenance need to address visitor and staff safety, as well as vandalism prevention.

Management Objectives:

- Increase maintenance services in the park.
- Provide adequate parking for large vehicles and large groups.
- Develop a safety and emergency operations plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Montana State Parks would like to thank the Ulm Pishkun State Park Advisory Committee for their contributions of both time and energy throughout the park planning process. Without the committee member's dedication to the process, as well as their expertise and vision, the plan would not have been possible.

Ulm Pishkun Advisory Committee Members:

Mary Anne Cosgrove – Skyline High School

Gayle Fisher – Russell Country

Jack Fisher – Montana State University, Archeologist

Brad Hamlett – All Nations Pishkun Association

Ed Hastings – Park neighbor

Lyle Heavyrunner – Blackfeet Tribe

Chuck Niswanger – Quigley's Quickstop

Cindy Kittredge – High Plains Heritage Center

Faith Robertson – Assistant Manager Ulm Pishkun State Park

Fay Schaller – Montana Native Plants Society

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAP OF ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK.....	II
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VII
INTRODUCTION.....	1
ABOUT THE PARK	1
GEOGRAPHY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.....	2
CULTURAL RESOURCES	3
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE	3
OPERATIONS	4
STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION.....	4
VISITATION	5
PURPOSE OF THE PLAN.....	6
PLANNING PROCESS	6
PLANNING TIMELINE	7
ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MISSION.....	8
ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK VISION	9
ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN	10
ISSUE: PARK PROMOTION AND VISITATION.....	10
ISSUE: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES	16
ISSUE: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	20
ISSUE: CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	27
ISSUE: RECREATION MANAGEMENT.....	31
ISSUE: INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION.....	35
ISSUE: FACILITIES AND SERVICES.....	40
ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE	43
IMPLEMENTATION.....	44
APPENDICES	52
APPENDIX A: ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	53
APPENDIX B: 2003 VISITOR SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY	54
APPENDIX C: MONTANA STATE PARK HUNTING POLICY.....	55
APPENDIX D: ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES REGARDING ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK...	57

INTRODUCTION

Ulm Pishkun State Park is located approximately 14 miles southwest of Great Falls between the Sun and Missouri River Valleys. The park can be reached by driving three and a half miles west from the Interstate 15 Ulm Exit. The name of the park comes from the Blackfeet Indian word Pis’kun, or “deep kettle of blood”, and from the nearby town of Ulm, named after 1865 homesteader William Ulm.

In February 2003, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) began the process of developing a comprehensive management plan for the park. FWP collaborated with a citizen-based advisory committee, guided by input from the general public, to identify park issues and trends and formulate management goals, objectives, policies and actions. The results of this effort are incorporated into this management plan in a format intended to guide projects and activities in Ulm Pishkun State Park for the next ten years. This plan describes a vision and work plan, which conserves the park's natural resources, provides recreational opportunities for park users, and develops educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors.

ABOUT THE PARK

The buffalo jump at Ulm Pishkun State Park was designated a State Historical Monument in 1972. At that time, the land encompassed only 160 acres at the top of the jump. This land was originally acquired by the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC, then Dept. of State Lands (DSL)), and managed by FWP. For many years, the only amenities at the historic monument were picnic shelters and some interpretive signs below the cliffs. During this time the site was attended to by service organizations in Great Falls, primarily the High Noon Optimists Club and the Cascade County Historical Society. These organizations provided on-site clean up as well as fundraising activities, such as the popular “Evening A-top the Pishkun.”

Along with other funding sources, the funds raised by these service groups helped provide money to finance archeological research in the early 1990’s (see Appendix D). This

research uncovered substantial evidence of jump use, including buffalo bones, arrowheads, and carcass cleaning tools, dating as far back as 300 AD, though most pieces were dated to approximately 900 AD. Evidence shows that use of the jump continued through approximately 1500 AD. In some places, buffalo bone deposits were measured to 13 feet deep. Information from these archeological investigations was presented to the Montana State Legislature in efforts to establish a permanent facility and educational programs at the site. Additional potential archeological excavations could continue if funding sources are obtained.

Initial plans called for construction of the proposed visitor center on the top of the jump. This was considered by some tribes to be unacceptable due to the revered nature of the jump. At that time FWP was approached by a private landowner who was interested in the project. He sold some of his land below the jump to FWP, and the visitor center was erected in that area. Some land that was not essential for the protection of the jump was included in this transaction. This land was subsequently involved in a land trade with DNRC in 2001, which ultimately connected the parkland at the bottom of the jump with the land at the top of the jump for the first time and acquired much of the length of the cliff.

Ground breaking for the visitor center occurred in 1998, with the visitor center doors opening to the public Memorial Day, 1999. A former winter wheat field between the top of the jump and the visitor center was re-seeded to native grass in October of 2001, part of the only 1% of native grassland remaining in the United States. Two miles of trails have been constructed between the visitor center and the top of the jump, offering additional interpretive opportunities and an ability for the visitor to experience a native grassland prairie ecosystem, the cliffs of the buffalo jump, stunning vistas, and wildlife that still frequent the area.

Geography and Natural Resources

Ulm Pishkun State Park is primarily a cultural park, but also includes significant natural features. The site covers 1,423.86 acres of primarily native short grass prairie habitat, with an additional 1.984 acres in road easements. The park is bordered by private property and DNRC leased lands. Southwest of the park are 960 acres currently leased by All Nations

Pishkun Association (ANPA), and an additional 360 acres northwest of the park leased by ANPA members.

Short grass prairies support a great variety of vegetation including blue grama, needle and thread, and bluebunch wheatgrass. Wildlife species include, but are not limited to: pronghorn antelope, mule deer, black-tailed prairie dogs, coyotes, rabbits, hawks, eagles, sharp-tailed grouse, larks, pheasants, curlews, burrowing owls, mice, and a variety of snakes.

Cultural Resources

The cliffs at Ulm Pishkun figure prominently in oral histories of several Native American tribes, including the Pend O'reille, Shoshone, Assiniboiné, Blackfeet, Cree, Gros Ventre, Salish, and perhaps others. It is located in the Missouri River corridor, which has been a focal point of human travel and activity for prehistoric cultures in Montana. The Ulm Pishkun site is rich in artifacts, including arrowheads, potsherds, scrapers, and cutting tools. The hilltop above the cliffs reveals 260 stone cairns, possibly remains of drivelines that Native Americans used to guide buffalo to the cliff edge. Twenty-two tipi rings indicate camps existed on top of the cliffs when drivelines were not in use. Archeological investigations reveal that ancient peoples also might have camped on the bench adjacent to the cliff base. Today, the site welcomes Native American use for worship and celebration and for reconnection with ancestors.

More recent history at the site includes homesteading, and operation of a stone quarry between 1889 and 1905. Stones from the quarry were used to construct many buildings in Helena and Great Falls. Bone mining occurred in the 1930s and 1940s at the site, utilizing the buffalo bone meal for cattle-feed supplement and fertilizer. Amateur archeological activities began in the 1950s and 1960s, prompting early efforts to establish the area as a state park.

Facilities and Infrastructure

The park has two entrances, one accessing the visitor center at the bottom of the jump, and one at the top of the jump. A two-mile interpretive trail loops from the visitor center to the

bottom of the jump and back and includes several benches for resting, a marked tipi ring, and interpretive signage about the plains ecosystem, prehistoric jump activities, archeology, and area history. Visitors can hike trail link to the top of the jump or drive to the top to walk a short, paved interpretive trail and overlook scenic vistas of the grasslands and Square Butte.

The visitor center contains an interpretive hall, which tells the story of the buffalo and Native cultures who depended on it, an archeology display room, which doubles as a classroom and meeting room, restrooms, a gift shop, and park offices and storage. A picnic area, located outside of the visitor center, provides tables for visitors to enjoy a break. Open fields near the visitor center serve as venues for special events such as atlatl (spear-thrower) competitions, traditional games, school group activities, and cultural fairs.

According to a 2003 summer visitor survey, visitors most frequently participate in walks through the interpretive hall, enjoy the views, read interpretive signing, walk the interpretive trail at the top of the jump, and visit the archeology display room at the visitor center.

Operations

Ulm Pishkun is a day use park, open year-round to visitors at the top of the jump from sun-up to sundown. At the visitor center, summer hours run from Memorial Day to September 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the rest of the year the visitor center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Staffing and Organization

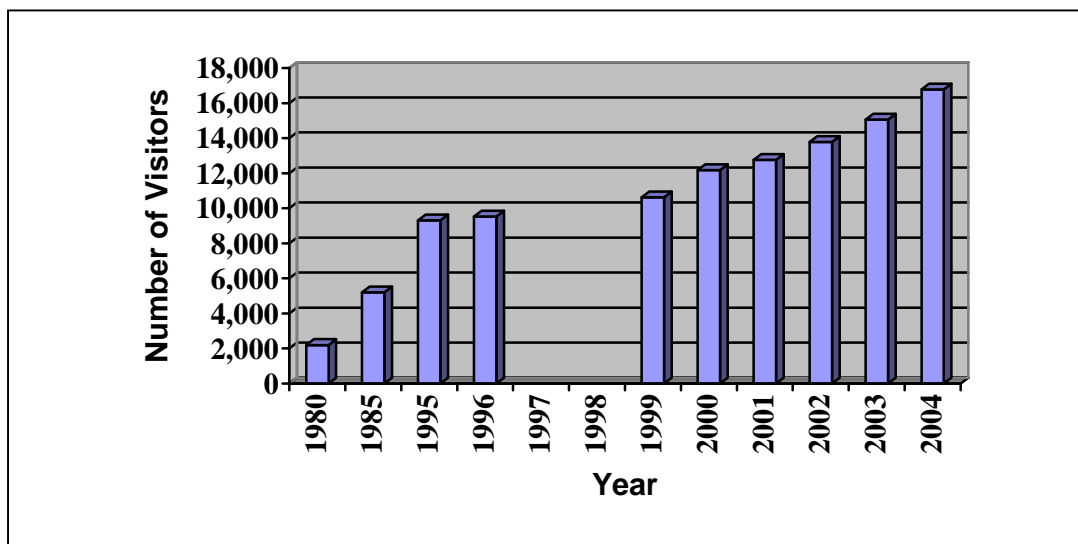
In total, Montana State Parks manages 50 state parks and approximately 320 fishing access sites statewide. The parks system is divided into seven regions; Ulm Pishkun is located in Region Four, which covers the north central portion of the state. One full-time Park Manager, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Assistant Manager, and two seasonal positions staff the park. A not-for-profit group, the All Nations Pishkun Association, was organized to create awareness

and appreciation of the culture & peoples who used this sacred area by supporting and sponsoring educational, cultural and social activities.

Visitation

Ulm Pishkun visitation has increased annually since the park's inception into the Montana State Parks System. In 2004, the park received 16,782 visits, the largest visitation in the park's history. This number is significantly less than the annual average of 40,000 visitors projected for the park during visitor center planning and construction. With the change in residential fee structures as of January 1, 2004, visitation trends are projected to increase to reflect more resident visitation.

Table 1. Ulm Pishkun State Park Visitation 1980-2003



Note: Visitation data is not available for 1997 and 1998 due, in part to construction.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan offers a comprehensive vision and action plan for the park for the next ten years. Progress will be monitored no less often than five years, and in accordance with FWP policy, the plan revised in no more than ten years. The first management plan for the park, this plan offers guidance for park managers to engage area residents and visitors, and help the park realize it's potential as an educational, recreational, and cultural destination.

This Ulm Pishkun Management Plan was developed with the following goals and guidelines:

1. Develop a vision for the park.
2. Ensure stakeholders have ownership in the planning process and in the final plan and that their interests are addressed.
3. Develop a plan with specific attention to the founding concepts of the park
 - Education element: outdoor classroom.
 - Native American element: a unique cultural site, building cultural bridges.
 - Commercial element: tourism, opportunities for regional tourism.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Ulm Pishkun Management Plan began in February 2003 with meetings to define the purpose and process for the plan, conduct stakeholder analyses, and develop a public participation plan. Beginning in May 2003, the park conducted a summer visitor survey at the park. The survey provided information to help direct and inform the planning process, including visitor demographics, activities, and opinions on park management and services. A volunteer, citizen-based committee, was formed to assist in an advisory capacity in the drafting of this plan. The committee represented a diversity of park users and interests during monthly meetings from September of 2003 through May of 2004. The committee contributed their expertise, considering funding, staffing, resource needs, and community desires, to identify issues pertaining to the park and develop management recommendations for park management.

Utilizing information from the public process and input from these meetings, the Parks Division developed a draft management plan in June 2004. Due to several staff changes within Region Four and Helena, the draft was reviewed and revised by the Advisory Committee and Parks staff in February 2005. A second draft was available for a month-long public comment period in March 2005, with a final management plan delivered to the Parks Administrator and then the Director of MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks for review and approval in May 2005.

PLANNING TIMELINE

- **February – May, 2003**

Background research, process identification, stakeholder analysis, committee invites.

- **May-September, 2003**

Public scoping is conducted to gather data and identify issues through a visitor survey and local community outreach.

- **September 17, 2003**

Advisory committee members convene for first advisory committee meeting.
Second draft is released for public review.

- **September 2003– June 2004**

Committee meets monthly to evaluate park issues and develops recommendations.

- **February 2005**

First draft of management plan issued for committee review.

- **April 2005**

Second draft of plan is available for public review.

- **June 2005**

Final plan submitted to FWP director for approval.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MISSION

Ulm Pishkun State Park management is guided by a commitment to the many cultures involved with the park, by the park mission, and by the Montana State Parks Program Mission. The Parks Program Mission is defined in the 2020 Vision document, which provides a broad, long-range direction for the Montana State Park System for the first two decades of the twenty-first century. The Ulm Pishkun Management Plan reflects the mission and applicable goals and objectives of the 2020 Vision plan.

Montana State Park Mission Statement

The mission of the Montana State Park system is to preserve, enhance, and interpret a diverse representation of Montana's most outstanding natural, cultural/historic, and recreational resources, for the personal, social, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

Ulm Pishkun State Park Mission Statement

Ulm Pishkun State Park will build bridges between Native American and non-Native people. At the Ulm Pishkun Visitor Center the park will build bridges by encouraging all people to learn about the importance of the buffalo to all cultures, especially Native Plains buffalo cultures. It will provide a place where Native Americans can share their traditions and tell their stories in their own voices. Interpretation will recognize the site's changing uses and its importance to people from many races and tribes for many different reasons.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK VISION

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan is designed to help the park build and grow toward the following vision over the next 10 years.

Ulm Pishkun State Park Vision

In the next 10 years Ulm Pishkun State Park will develop into a destination for Montana residents and visitors. Exhibits, programming, and facilities will be enhanced, and will include expanded information on the cultural, natural, and archeological resources.

As the viewshed surrounding the park is a central component and attraction of the park, preservation of the native open prairie lands and the flora and fauna that constitute the viewshed will be a priority for the park.

An educational and interpretive experiential emphasis will continue at the park. This emphasis will continue to expand and engage audiences of all ages and diverse needs. Visitors will benefit from enhanced exhibit areas and programming that will include hands-on, visual experiences and carry-away memories. The educational experience at Ulm Pishkun State Park will be a voyage through the past with opportunities to experience the scientific, natural, and cultural elements of the varied eras in the site's history.

Within the educational and interpretive context, Ulm Pishkun State Park will continue to develop as a center for Native American cultures to tell their stories of the Pishkun and demonstrate life-skills. An increased Native American presence will be encouraged at the site, through volunteering, staffing, programming, and partnerships.

The natural, cultural, and physical resources of the park will be managed to approximate their state at the time the site was used as a buffalo jump. A balance between visitor needs and healthy resources will be emphasized. Efforts to expand information on the site's archeological and cultural resources will continue within the park.

These improvements will lead to an increase in visitation to the site. Park management infrastructure will include the resources necessary to accomplish park goals and support a safe, comfortable, and educational environment for park staff, volunteers, and visitors.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The advisory committee and general public, through a visitor survey (see Appendix) and stakeholder feedback process, identified the following issues as significant to Ulm Pishkun management: Park Promotion and Visitation, Financial and Human Resources, Natural Resource Management, Cultural Resource Management, Recreation Management, Education and Interpretation, and Facilities and Services. For each issue, the advisory committee and FWP developed a set of goals for the next ten years, along with objectives and recommended action items to reach each goal. The committee emphasized the importance of including measurable actions whenever possible so park management can check timelines and measure progress in implementing this plan. As all issues are important and interconnected, issues are not listed in order of priority in this document.

ISSUE: PARK PROMOTION AND VISITATION

Issue Statement: Ulm Pishkun State Park does not presently possess a reputation regionally or beyond as a “place on the map.” Ulm Pishkun State Park visitation is low in relation to the park vision, its proximity to the largest city in the state and Interstate 15, a major tourism corridor with an average of 4,800 vehicles passing Ulm daily. Without compromising park resources or the park experience, an increase in public awareness of the park is desired, along with higher visitation. Additionally, the park’s target audience needs to be expanded. Many actions that the advisory committee considered would be components of a broader park marketing plan specific to the park.

Goals and Recommended Actions

<p>GOAL: Promote the park proactively to establish Ulm Pishkun State Park as a destination site and increase visitation, while protecting park resources and ensuring a high quality visitor experience.</p>

OBJECTIVE: Market the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a marketing plan specifically for the park with the goal of increasing visitation to the park and attracting a wider audience. Include schools in the plan.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Develop and utilize a press kit to advertise the park, and its events and programs.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

3. Disseminate the current park brochure and other promotional materials to Chambers of Commerce, in airports, to different parks and hotels, to schools, and possibly on contracted racks. Also communicate with local businesses to distribute the information.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

4. Add the term “buffalo jump” to the new kiosks advertising the park.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

5. Develop and distribute an annual poster advertising all park events.

Timeline for Completion: Annually.

6. Work with an advisory group to evaluate the park name and decide whether the Blackfeet word “Pis’kun” should replace “Pishkun” in the name and whether the term “Ulm” should be removed from the name.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

7. Enhance Interstate and kiosk signing and messaging to more clearly describe what can be found at the park (i.e. buffalo jump, Native American cultural center, etc).

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

8. Develop the park’s reputation through word of mouth.

- i. Provide FWP-sponsored tours of the park for Chambers of Commerce.
- ii. Provide information on the park for hotel frontline trainings, to new businesses, and other area attractions.

- iii. Provide staff and volunteer presentations about the park to organizations in the area.

Timeline for completion: One to two years.

9. Secure an advertising budget to implement the marketing plan.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase visitation to levels comparable to other parks in similar proximity to large populations and with comparable attractions, such as Chief Plenty Coups and Makoshika, yet maintain visitor satisfaction.

Recommended Actions

1. Increase visitation annually through enhanced interpretive programming at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

2. Implement the marketing plan to promote the park and increase visitation.

Timeline for Completion: One year, then ongoing.

OBJECTIVE: Provide attractions for local community residents.

Discussion

According to the 2003 Summer Visitor Survey, respondents who were Montana residents visited the park an average of 1.4 times during the year. In order to continue to draw local residents from Great Falls, Ulm, and other surrounding communities, the park will need to offer attractions that provide incentives for multiple visits, including increasing the variety of recreation and educational opportunities.

Recommended Actions

1. Schedule and advertise new park events and programming that are of interest to area residents through a variety of media and methods.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Determine policy to recognize and allow Native American use of specific sites to carry out traditional ceremonies, such as sweats or gifting. Policy needs to consider:
 - a. Access,
 - b. Public use,
 - c. Accommodations for and future outcomes of structures placed on property (i.e. sweat lodges).

Timeline for Completion: One year.

3. Enhance some exhibits to provide new incentives to visit the park. This may include rotating some exhibits seasonally or adding additional presentations in the lobby, classroom, or outside the visitor center as appropriate.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

4. Establish a “Locals Day” at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Promote the park through current partnerships and cultivate future partnerships to increase awareness of the park.

Discussion

The Missouri River Corridor, from Great Falls south through Cascade County and down to Helena, presents a wealth of educational and recreational opportunities for local and non-resident visitors. Many local businesses and organizations, including Ulm Pishkun State Park, work to attract and serve the tourism community in this area. The park should take advantage of partnership opportunities within this tourism community.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with Chambers of Commerce and Russell County to include Ulm Pishkun in packaged tourism deals in the local attraction corridor.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Continue working with other members of the regional museum consortium to collaborate on programs and activities for the park and throughout the consortium.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

3. Communicate with partners about park events and attractions.
 - i. Develop a contact list of park partners.
 - ii. Publish a newsletter twice a year to distribute to the tourism community.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

GOAL: Provide year-round experiences at the park that encourage return visits and word-of-mouth promotion of the park.

OBJECTIVE: Develop park amenities to encourage longer visits at the park.

Discussion

The park is located three miles from any services and even further from most major services, including refreshments. This location makes it hard for visitors to stay for extended periods of time, especially for those visitors who are traveling with children or pets. The park needs to provide the amenities necessary to facilitate longer visits while maintaining the visitor experience and aesthetics of the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Provide refreshment and food services through a special use permit to sell food through booths during special events.
 - a. Park Manager will designate specific areas of the park for vending activities.
 - b. Park shall negotiate a percentage of gross sales or a flat fee for each booth.
 - c. Special Use Permits must include appropriate county health department food handling permits.
 - d. Priority will be given to Montana-Made items.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Establish flexible hours for visitor groups that would like to visit the park outside of normal Visitor Center hours. Advertise the availability of Visitor Center visits outside of normal hours.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Identify pet areas for easy recognition; post leash requirements and precautions about rattlesnakes. The site is not necessarily "pet friendly," but the park does provide areas for inclusion.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately

4. Provide limited, unobtrusive food services at the park seasonally through a vendor or pre-packaged items.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Organize a greater number of well-promoted special events and better promote existing events.

Discussion

While the park does currently organize, schedule, and advertise events at the park every year, these events are not widely advertised and while some events are well attended, more attendance is desired for other events. In addition, an increase in presenter and advertiser revenue is desired in association with events. In order to generate interest in the park, as well as opportunities for revenue, the park needs to develop and advertise more events to attract visitors.

Recommended Actions

1. Coordinate one or two annual events, including an annual Pow Wow at the park in conjunction with the state annual Pow Wow schedule. These events may be produced in association with All Nations Pishkun Association

Timeline for Completion: Begin planning, first event one year.

2. Re-institute “Evening on the Pishkun,” perhaps through ANPA.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

3. Utilize any future active archeological research to promote the park on a national scale.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

ISSUE: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Issue Statement: With added visitation, additional personnel and financial resources will be needed to ensure high quality visitor experiences and adequately manage the park. The gift store, visitor center and special events present opportunities to increase revenues through related interpretive and food merchandise.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: As the quality and attractiveness of the park are directly linked to the availability and use of park resources, increase personnel in the park to provide a first-rate experience for visitors.

OBJECTIVE: Provide alternatives to staff service for visitors.

Discussion

Trained personnel at the park is too low to complete all desired tasks. Alternative ways to supplement staffing resources as means of performing these tasks should be pursued.

Recommended Actions

1. Provide narration in the exhibit hall through audiotapes and headsets.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

2. Provide video that does not overshadow the rest of the visitor experience. Video would provide an alternate method of learning about the park for populations who have trouble physically experiencing the park. Some ideas for use of video media are:

- A park overview
- Educational, subject-oriented videos that can also be sold.
- A Native American-produced Buffalo Jump re-enactment.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

3. Develop a pamphlet that describes cultural and natural resources at Ulm Pishkun for visitors to refer to when visiting the cliff.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Expand the volunteer program.

Discussion

Volunteers at Ulm Pishkun have provided an invaluable service to the park through staffing and programming support in the visitor center, at special events, school groups, and maintenance. The success of the existing volunteer program has highlighted opportunities for expanding the program to focus on a greater variety of tasks and provide volunteers with diversify opportunities to contribute to and learn from work at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a list of projects available at the park for various volunteer groups and distribute the list to the groups annually or additionally as the need arises.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

2. Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Pursue budget options for corporate sponsorship for such things as stipends for fuel reimbursement to retain volunteers.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Expand the volunteer program to recruit a larger diversity in age of volunteers. Current opportunities for expansion include Scouts; Indian Clubs in the schools; and 4-H clubs.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

5. Partner with schools and other organizations, clubs, special interest groups to produce programs, videos, and information on a seasonal and project basis.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

6. Strive for sixty volunteers contributing 3,500 hours annually, or double current contributions.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing over ten years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase visitor services and park facility management through additional staff resources.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop visitor use management procedures and protocol for increased number of visitors, outlining strategies for staff to manage high levels of use.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

2. Explore a funding partnership between FWP, tribal colleges, and the seven tribes to fund a Native American intern dedicated to the park to lead park tours and educational programming.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

3. Employ a full-time seasonal interpretive position to engage in park tours and educational programming at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

4. Employ a seasonal half-time maintenance position to provide maintenance services in the visitor center and on the park grounds.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

GOAL: Expand park earning potential and return on park division investment.
--

OBJECTIVE: Increase revenue generation opportunities.

Recommended Actions

1. Collaborate with Division to find incentives for park management to increase park revenues.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Publicize availability of conference room/classroom for events and conferences, and utilize the park special group use permit policy requiring a reservation/use fee.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Improve FWP management of the gift store including:
 - a. upgrade inventory management,
 - b. upgrade cash register system,
 - c. maintain membership in Museum Gift Store Association, and
 - d. prepare annual sales activity report.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

4. Partner with All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) to raise funds through special events..

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

5. Enhance gift shop inventory and continue to partner with appropriate vendors to consign inventory in the gift shop within the guidelines of the statewide enterprise fund policies.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

ISSUE: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: Natural resources in the park must be actively managed to ensure protection. Natural resource management decisions impact not only park resources, but also park visitors, private land, and neighbors.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: Protect open space in the park and in the viewshed.
--

OBJECTIVE: Set development parameters within the park to protect open space and the viewshed.

Discussion

Open space within the park boundaries is an integral component of the Ulm Pishkun experience and must be protected. At the same time, park management will need to provide additional infrastructure to accommodate projected increases in visitation, while also offering more varied experiences and expanded services encouraging visitors to stay longer at the park. Thus, innovative methods for protecting open space in some areas and in other areas allowing high use with potential development, such as necessary park infrastructure improvements or event facilities, should be an integral component of future management at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Establish a policy for development such that building expansion and parking expansion will be designed to protect park open space and the viewshed. Designate zones ranging from natural protection and low visitor use to high visitor density zones where activities are focused within the park to guide future activities and amenities.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. In order to accommodate future demand for more parking, especially during special events, collaborate with local establishments to designate an off-site parking area near Interstate 15 and provide shuttle service to the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

3. Fence the park boundaries accurately.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park.

Discussion

State lands surrounding the park boundary are currently leased by All Nations Pishkun Association and other entities. If existing leases end, it is possible the land may be utilized for purposes that detract from the desired park experience as well as the cultural resources in the area. It is a priority to preserve the educational values of the park, which include the surrounding viewshed, and to protect unexplored cultural resources on the state lands adjacent to the park

Recommended Actions

1. Purchase 3-5 acres of private land adjacent to the entrance road at the top of the jump.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Work with DNRC or leaseholders to revert lands to native grasslands.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

3. Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park. These guidelines should include:

- i. Manage land to maintain the viewshed.
- ii. Manage land to maintain the park experience.
- iii. Limit commercial resource extraction that may impair viewshed or resource quality.
- iv. Develop resource management plans to prevent soil erosion and maintain water quality where appropriate.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

4. Investigate possibilities for purchase of development rights on the lands for uses inconsistent with park goals.

Timeline for Completion: Ten years.

5. If the opportunity arises over time, investigate possibilities for converting the state lands into part of the state park through land exchanges or purchases.

Timeline for Completion: Ten years.

OBJECTIVE: Work to protect the viewshed outside of the park from subdivisions and other development incompatible with the park experience and desired setting.

Discussion

As population growth in Cascade County continues to expand south of Great Falls and along the Missouri River Corridor, development in the Ulm Pishkun viewshed will become an increasing threat to existing park views and the park setting. Subdivisions are currently being promoted within the park viewshed.

Recommended Actions

1. Partner with land conservation organizations, such as the Montana Land Reliance, to establish easements intended to protect the viewshed.

Discussion

Efforts to protect the viewshed should include consideration of possibilities for obtaining easements in association with lands eligible for Farm and Ranch Land Protection Act protection along the Missouri River corridor. Consult with the American Public Land Exchange and PPL Montana about their successful efforts at land preservation around the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Identify other potential partners for land conservation.

Timeline for Completion: One to ten years.

GOAL: Maintain landscapes similar to the buffalo jump era.

Discussion

The intent is to retain an open landscape to help envision the historic prairie, but certain low visual impact amenities are also desired to provide a wide range of visitor services and complete other management goals. Much of the park landscape currently supports plants that are mostly native to Montana; however, some species were not necessarily present when the buffalo jump was used. Noxious weeds are present in the park. Weeds need to be managed by professionals trained in control methods that will promote establishment of native grasses.

OBJECTIVE: Control noxious weeds and cultivate native plants on the property to maintain the desired landscape.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop an integrated noxious weed control regime designed to establish the native landscape desired, and including alternatives to spraying, such as biological and mechanical means of control.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

2. Conduct a professional plant assessment, possibly in conjunction with a university, of the park landscape to:
 - i. Inventory plants, including grasses and wildflowers, currently at the park.
 - ii. Provide a professional opinion of what the landscape looked like during the buffalo jump era.
 - iii. Identify and map noxious weed areas.
 - iv. Determine acreage of agricultural land and feasibility of returning to native species.
 - v. Based on the assessment, create a vision for the landscape and a plan for attaining that vision.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage and interpret a small, seasonal herd of buffalo on park property.

Discussion

The question of whether or not to establish live buffalo as part of the Ulm Pishkun State Park experience is a complex one. Live buffalo at the park make intuitive sense to some, considering the desire to manage the park to resemble the time of the buffalo, while others feel the interpretation at the park was designed to highlight the absence of the buffalo today. Buffalo management is resource intensive and may be an impediment to park operations and management that is already struggling with financial and staff resource limitations. Management considerations that will need to be accounted for if buffalo are introduced into the park include whether the herd would be at the park seasonally or year-round, herd ownership and management, acreage dedicated to herd and affects on the viewshed, visitor and buffalo safety, public relations with neighbors, a maintenance crew to maintain fences and buffalo habitat, aesthetics management for incidences such as sick buffalo and buffalo wallows, overall expenses, water distribution, and potential conflicts with archeological resources and research. Another fundamental consideration involves incorporating the live buffalo into the interpretive messages and educational programming for the park.

A buffalo management plan will be developed and include at a minimum consultation with tribal representatives, Wildlife Division, neighbors, the state veterinarian, and experienced buffalo herd managers.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with ANPA, park neighbors, and other stakeholders to produce a comprehensive buffalo management plan for the park. Any proposal that includes use of leased state lands will require that the owners of the lease complete an Environmental Assessment for those lands.
 - i. The plan must incorporate all management considerations outlined in this discussion and include an analysis of start-up fees as well as ongoing maintenance costs.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

2. If a comprehensive plan is approved by FWP, add a small (approximately 6-9 head) herd of live buffalo to the park for the high use season.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

3. Change interpretive message to include live buffalo (see Interpretation and Education).

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

GOAL: Establish a balance between the health of the wildlife species and the rest of the park's natural resources and visitor safety.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a natural resource management plan.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop comprehensive resource management plan for park wildlife species, which would consider the following components.
 - a. Inventory fauna in park.
 - b. Consider visitor safety around high use areas where higher control methods of potentially dangerous species (rattlesnakes) may be needed.
 - c. Maintain raptor habitat and protect snakes and their habitat to help naturally control mice and prairie dogs.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

2. Analyze grazing potential and feasibility with other park goals as a means of reducing fire fuels.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

OBJECTIVE: Actively manage a prairie dog population.

Discussion

The prairie dog population on the top of the jump is enlarging into the entire grassland area up to the edge of the jump and moving into neighboring private land. The loss of grasses is causing the area to convert into dust and, consequently, wind erosion is occurring. The park needs to ensure that the animals do not negatively impact private lands surrounding the park, the park ecosystem, or the integrity of the jump as holes expedite water seepage

near the cliffs. Prairie dog holes and tunnels are undermining park trails. At the same time, the prairie dog component of the natural ecosystem of the prairie needs to be maintained.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a prairie dog management plan. Identify the long-term growth patterns of the prairie dog town at the top of the jump and manage the town for aesthetics, ecological health of the entire park, visitor health and safety, and neighboring land owner concerns. Manage the species through appropriate control measures that do not compromise the health of the burrow ecosystem (i.e. negatively impact species such as burrowing owls).

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Consult with a prairie dog biologist or equivalent FWP expert to document, through GPS mapping, where the prairie dogs have colonized in the area.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Document prairie dog impacts and identify potential liabilities for the State, including potential spread of disease.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Educate visitors on prairie dog management through signage as necessary.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

ISSUE: CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: Ulm Pishkun State Park is rich in cultural history. There were a number of studies conducted between 1950 and 1995 (see Appendix D), by both professional and amateur archeologists at the site, to better understand the activity that took place there. These studies have looked primarily at surface and sub-surface anomalies present at the site. Work by Fisher and Roll led to some compelling evidence about the seasonal use of the jump, human occupation at the site and use period. Additional work is necessary to continue to understand the jump from an archeological perspective.

Except for a few exhibit items, artifacts from the site are not stored on site. Ulm Pishkun does not have curatorial facilities necessary to properly store a collection nor does the state desire to construct such a facility at this time. There is a need, however, to gain a better understanding of the location and volume of material collected from the site in the past and what resources remain on the site.

Currently little oral history on the Pishkun has been attempted to be collected. There is a need to gain a better understanding of this aspect of the site as well.

A cultural resource management plan should be developed for Ulm Pishkun. The plan should detail how future excavations at the site would be approved including how FWP will involve tribal interests in the decision making process.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: Actively manage the cultural resources of Ulm Pishkun.

OBJECTIVE: Inventory known cultural resources at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a comprehensive cultural resources management plan for the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

2. Obtain an inventory listing of the artifacts removed from the park and held at MSU. Work with the University to secure photo images of the collection.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

3. Compile and organize documents on file within FWP, SHPO and other locations to establish a research library at the park related to past archaeological work, including maps of tipi rings and drive lines, pictograph records, stone cairns, past excavations.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

4. Continue to locate and map areas where buffalo bones are present below the ground surface.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

OBJECTIVE: Balance education about the cultural resources and their preservation.

Discussion

The need to educate visitors on the cultural resources and the importance of preserving these resources must be balanced with efforts to protect the resources. Increased education about cultural resources, although beneficial, also increases awareness and interest in the resources. This interest often generates increased visitation and use of the area, thus increasing threats to the resource from foot traffic, vandalism, and destruction by excessive use.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop enhanced educational materials and/or signs that educate visitors about the importance of preserving the cultural resources and convey the irreparable loss caused by vandalism and/or theft.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

2. Develop a vandalism prevention and detection program with protocol for investigating possible archeological resource crimes.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

3. Develop a plan for pictograph preservation.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

4. Develop and implement preservation plans for cultural resources, including tipi rings, buried archeological materials, pictographs, drive lanes, and other possible jump sites along the east edge cliffs.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase knowledge of the park's cultural resources for increased park staff and visitor understanding.

Discussion

A vast opportunity for continued archeological research exists at the park. Archeological investigations would provide valuable educational opportunities for students, visitors, and professionals. This may include providing opportunities for archeological school tours and to tie interpretation on archeology with the other ways of knowing history, that are highlighted at the park, to lead to greater cross-cultural understanding of the park's heritage. Prior to any archeological investigation that is undertaken at the park, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and an advisory group comprised of tribal representatives which may have an interest in the project, will occur. At a minimum, this will include the Blackfeet Tribal Cultural Preservation Office.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with archeologists to document potential new research on park lands and on lands surrounding the park.

Timeline for Completion: Three to four years.

2. Plan and coordinate an archeological investigation that would provide additional information pertinent to the archeology field as well as available for public viewing and interpretation. Include area schools in this operation.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

3. Develop cooperative relationships with Native American and other schools wherein students can participate in archeological investigations.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

4. Consult with archeologists about a potential permanent archeological research site reproduction that contains interpretive information about methods and tools.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

5. Utilize results of additional archeological investigations to develop enhanced educational materials and resources that build on the considerable archeological information that already exists for Ulm Pishkun.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

ISSUE: RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: The park mission emphasizes the need for a place in which Native Americans can share their cultures and for all people to learn about the importance of buffalo. Groups need a place to congregate and to celebrate and honor ancestors. In an effort to expand experiential educational and interpretive activities relative to the park goals and missions and lengthen people's visit, more recreational opportunities are needed. Retaining a visitor experience intended through the interpretive messages and historic viewsheds will guide the types of recreational opportunities provided. In order to increase recreational opportunities while balancing competing land uses and natural and cultural resource needs, recreation management also needs to complement resource management plans.

GOAL: Expand recreational opportunities at the park for a variety of users.
--

OBJECTIVE: Develop multi-purpose group use facilities at the park consistent with the park setting.

Discussion

An arbor design and group use shelter, through their attention to the viewshed and feel of the park, and through materials and wind protection, should provide a means for education of appropriate construction in prairie grassland habitats.

Recommended Actions

1. Dedicate a location for and design a dance arbor within the park to provide an arena for activities such as dances, Pow wows, and speakers. A location should be:
 - i. Close to underground electric.
 - ii. Accessible to outdoor water faucets.
 - iii. In a location that will not compromise the park viewshed.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Coordinate with ANPA to seek funding for the arbor facility.

Timeline for Completion: One to three years.

3. Develop a design for a group use shelter that complements dance arbor design:
 - i. Includes lasting materials to reduce maintenance needs.
 - ii. Provides wind protection.
 - iii. Minimizes intrusion on the park viewshed.
 - iv. Space for portable restroom facilities.
 - v. Leaves a distance between the group use area and the visitor center that attracts visitors to the center and the gift store, but also acts as a buffer to keep numbers in the visitor center at a manageable level that does not disturb the experience of visitors not associated with events at the group use area.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage park for day use, but encourage camping in the local area; provide primitive camping opportunities in the park during special events on a limited basis and when appropriate.

Discussion

In order to encourage longer visits at the park and increase visitation, as well as attendance at special events, camping opportunities in the area are necessary. Currently there is little opportunity to camp in the entire Great Falls vicinity. While providing camping facilities is not desirable at the park, possibilities exist for private enterprises to create camping opportunities near the park. Also, limited, primitive camping may be possible at the park during special events as long as the impacts of camping, including garbage, fire, and toilet facilities, are mitigated.

Recommended Actions

1. Actively encourage and work with private enterprises to develop camping within the Ulm area. This may include providing incentives for visiting Ulm, such as a discount on camping with proof of a visit to the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

2. Develop guidelines to allow primitive camping in designated areas of the park during special events only. This will include support services such as portable restrooms and access to potable water.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage trail use and expand trail opportunities in the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a trail management plan to design, improve, maintain and sign new and existing trails.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

2. Determine potential for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail development in other areas of the park that won't conflict with existing uses and viewsheds.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

GOAL: Manage recreation activities in ways that do not conflict with the park resources and the desired visitor experience.
--

OBJECTIVE: Minimize resource and social impacts.

Recommended Actions

1. Implement a "Leave No Trace" educational program to minimize inappropriate resource and social impacts.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Allow smoking only on hard surfaces to protect park resources and neighboring crop lands.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Enforce park division rule prohibiting use of all motorized vehicles for recreation purposes within the park boundaries except on park roads.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Enforce no shooting policy in areas historically used for target shooting, such as along the switchbacks up to the jump.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

OBJECTIVE: Discontinue hunting and trapping in the park.

Discussion

In 1998, the FWP Commission adopted a no hunting policy in parks that disallows hunting, with exceptions (refer to the State Park Hunting Policy in the Appendix). Big game is not prevalent on the site and few hunters request access to hunt birds annually. Some lands surrounding the visitor center have been cultivated in CRP, but this may also change in the next then years as the park attempts to restore native prairie. As the park implements actions to increase visitation year-round, and expand recreational opportunities across the park, such as additional trails and buffalo viewing opportunities, visitors could be exposed to dangers associated with hunting.

Recommended Actions

1. Prohibit hunting within the park. Erect signs at entrance and other locations around the park to notify the public.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on lands adjacent to the park that do not conflict with park use.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

ISSUE: INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Issue Statement: An Ulm Pishkun State Park Interpretive Plan will be developed based on interpretive guidance in this management plan. As the park was envisioned in part as an educational facility, education and interpretation, including Native American-related programming, will be a focus for the park.

Discussion

As the interpretation and education section of this plan is intended as a guide for development of a comprehensive interpretive plan for the park within one year, this section is organized differently than the other issues in this plan. The following goals, objectives, and recommended actions are not linked with a definitive timeline as much implementation will depend on completion of the interpretive plan. An interpretive plan for the park is recognized as keystone to successful fulfillment of the park vision.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: Base interpretation and education on key interpretive topics as they pertain to the Ulm Pishkun site:

- Cultures and histories of Native American tribes and nations.
- Archeology
- Prairie Ecosystem
- Geology
- Settlement history, including quarry, bone mining, uses today.

Discussion

It is important that all interpretive themes and programs concentrate on topics specific to the Ulm Pishkun site. Attention to the interface between the park's interpretive program and other area visitor destinations should be considered when developing interpretive material. FWP would collaborate with local museums ensure appropriate interpretation of local history.

OBJECTIVE: Consider and complement the missions and eras covered by other area attractions.

OBJECTIVE: Consider changes to the park name to make it more relevant to the site (see Park Promotion and Visitation issue for more information).

OBJECTIVE: If live buffalo are incorporated into the park, change the interpretive message to include them.

- i. Incorporate live buffalo into the visitor center theme that currently centers on the question, “What thing in your culture if taken away would change your life forever?”
- ii. Include story of how the buffalo survived and tie in with the ecosystem and the Native American cultures.
- iii. Provide interpretation at the visitor center and along the roads.

Recommended Actions (note - timelines for completion will be tied to completion of an overall park interpretive plan)

1. Work with an advisory committee to consider a name change from “Pishkun” to the Blackfeet word “Piskun,” meaning buffalo jump.
2. Work with an advisory committee to consider the relevance of the word “Ulm” in the park name and decide whether the word should remain in the name.

GOAL: Focus on identified audiences for interpretation and develop programming to meet their needs and interests.
--

Recommended Actions (by audience)

▪ **Schools**

Discussion

The park is currently working with some schools to create curriculum to supplement “no child left behind” benchmarks that schools are unable to meet. In addition, educational trunks, and OPI accredited training about Ulm Pishkun are options for further work in this area.

- Integrate the interpretive program with State curriculum objectives and benchmarks for subjects.

- Renew the FWP transportation grant program (Visitor Services Bureau) for schools that cannot afford the transportation costs to reach the park.
- Continue to develop programs to take to the schools if the schools cannot come to the park.
- **Adults**
 - Provide learning opportunities that are tied to credits and skills, such as beading and other traditional craft.
 - Utilize archeological investigations to provide adult educational experiences and raise funds for the park.
- **General**
 - Capitalize on the built-in audience provided by the “Exploring the Big Sky” Lewis and Clark-related events scheduled for Great Falls in the summer of 2005.
- **Area Residents**

See Promotion and Visitation discussion pg. 12.

GOAL: Design and implement interpretation and education to enhance the visitor experience beyond current park exhibits and interpretive signing.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance the exhibits through physical changes and through programming.

Recommended Actions:

1. Reduce the amount of reading involved with new exhibits.
 - i. Include more photographs and other visual material in the displays.
 - ii. Provide oral histories and other audio material in the displays.
2. Enhance the tipi area to provide more details about the use history of the structure.
3. Utilize exhibits as part of programming events to enhance stories.
4. Incorporate live buffalo into the exhibits once they are instituted in the park (see Natural Resource Management discussion).
5. Include wildlife issues in the interpretation and education program.

6. Include regional geology (for example, the cliff is composed of sandstone and shale deposited millions of years ago near the margin of an inland sea).

OBJECTIVE: Increase attention on the site's archeological resources and history through an archeological investigation on-site.

Discussion

Past archeological research at Ulm Pishkun contributed to an enhanced understanding of when and how Ulm Pishkun was used by ancient Native peoples for buffalo procurement. While these findings are of tremendous significance, professionals believe future investigations could reveal new information about ancient cultures and about Ulm Pishkun. New research also holds potential of dating the site more accurately, and perhaps extending the period of site use further back than currently documented.

Archeological excavations must include provisions for the following:

- a) Proper cataloging and storage of excavated materials (buffalo bones, artifacts, etc.).
If excavations are carried out over multiple years, a large storage space will be required, especially for buffalo bones.
- b) Analysis of archeological materials. This entails guidance from experts in animal bone analysis, stone artifact analysis, and other specialties.
- c) Dissemination of results to the public and professional archeology communities.

Recommended Actions

1. Include field schools, in association with professionally led on-site archeological investigations, in the education and interpretive program.
 - i. Provide one or two week sessions for paying guests to participate in the archeological research on-site.
 - ii. Work with regional high schools, tribal colleges, universities, and other educational institutions to establish credit-granting programs for work with the archeological researchers.
 - iii. Explore opportunities to partner with area lodging and restaurant establishments in association with the research.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance adult educational opportunities and programming.

Recommended Actions

1. Capitalize on fundraising opportunities associated with adult education programs.
2. Utilize the adult education program to highlight the importance of preserving this important site.
3. Provide opportunities for teachers to obtain recertification credits through educational programming at the park.
4. Concentrate on recruiting interns from area post-secondary schools, including the Montana State University-Great Falls, University of Great Falls, and Malmstrom Air Force Base's Master's program.
5. Develop and continue to update an annual list of potential intern projects that will benefit the park and ensure interns will also receive educational benefits. Distribute this list to educational programs in the area.

ISSUE: FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Issue Statement: As park visitation increases, parking will be inadequate. Additional personnel will be needed to maintain visitor services. Increased facilities and maintenance will require added storage and office space. With such growth comes a concern for impacts on the visitor experience, and a need to manage effects of increased group use and any new development, such as the group use area and added trails. Also, infrastructure and facility maintenance need to address visitor and staff safety, as well as vandalism prevention.

GOAL: Ensure that park facilities contribute to a quality visitor experience consistent with the park mission though visitation, programming, and special events will increase.

Discussion

More visitors, programming, and special events at the park will generate additional maintenance, interpretive, and management needs. Appropriate levels of trained personnel at the park will be essential to maintaining positive visitor experiences as the park changes and grows.

OBJECTIVE: Increase maintenance services in the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Remove garbage from dump sites and areas used for target shooting on northeast side of park (along road switchbacks to jump); erect signs or fencing to prohibit future dumping.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Develop a protocol for routine maintenance and janitorial needs and procedures at park facilities.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Develop a reference guide for cyclic maintenance and how to assess, track and repair roads, buildings, utilities, water systems, vehicles and other infrastructure components; identify major maintenance projects.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Develop integrated pest control methods for Visitor Center to protect exhibits, and limit secondary effects on wildlife species.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

5. Develop a storage facility for maintenance equipment and repair.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

OBJECTIVE: Provide adequate parking for large vehicles and large groups.

Recommended Actions

1. As access is currently difficult for big RV's pulling cars, repaint and reconfigure the parking lot to establish areas for such vehicles and to guide all visitors for efficient use of the lot.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Implement visitor center planning strategy to allow parking in fields around center during special events on a rest-rotation basis and as weather conditions allow.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

3. Utilize land off-site for additional parking during special events (see protecting the viewshed discussion page 21).

Timeline for Completion: One to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a safety and emergency operations plan.

Recommended Actions

1. Identify and address safety issues for park visitors, including road management, wildlife concerns, tort claims, and heat and other emergency medical situations. The results of this effort should result in a formal, detailed visitor safety policy and plan for the park and posting of relevant notices to the public, such as dehydration, snakes, terrain, weather, etc).

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Identify and address safety issues for park staff, including after-hours security. The results of this effort should result in a formal, detailed staff safety policy and plan for the park, including fee remittance handling and transport, and agency jurisdiction associated with law enforcement, fire suppression and medical emergencies.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Identify staff first aid and emergency response training needs and maintain currency with required certifications.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Advisory Committee that worked to develop the management plan feels the park will benefit from ongoing public input and support from a formalized advisory committee. The committee recommends such a group be formed to meet as appropriate to provide guidance and support on park affairs. It is recommended that the committee meet once every two years to consider park proposals and questions that require public scrutiny. The committee would not be a decision-making body and decisions would not require permission from the committee. In addition, the committee will meet to review and update the plan as schedule five years after plan approval.

IMPLEMENTATION

This plan will be implemented in accordance with the following action timeline. While there is no guarantee each action will be completed by its timeline for completion, this schedule provides a guideline for park managers when implementing this plan. Therefore, barring mitigating circumstances, the desired plan for implementation will be completed within the following time periods after plan approval:

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Disseminate the current park brochure and other promotional materials
	Add the term “buffalo jump” to the new kiosks in park.
	Increase visitation annually through enhanced interpretive programming at the park.
	Implement the marketing plan to promote the park and increase visitation.
	Work with Chambers of Commerce and Russell County to include Ulm Pishkun in packaged tourism deals in the local attraction corridor.
	Continue working with other members of the regional museum consortium to collaborate on programs and activities for the park.
	Communicate with partners about park events and attractions.
	Develop a contact list of park partners.
	Publish a newsletter twice a year for distribution to the tourism community.
	Provide refreshment and food services through a special use permit to sell food through booths during special events.
Financial and Human Resources	Establish flexible hours for visitor groups that would like to visit the park outside of normal Visitor Center hours. Advertise the availability of Visitor Center visits outside of normal hours.
	Identify pet areas for easy recognition; post leash requirements and precautions about rattlesnakes.
	Develop a list of projects available at the park for various volunteer groups and distribute the list to the groups annually or additionally as the need arises.
	Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY continued	
Financial and Human Resources	Pursue budget options for corporate sponsorship for such things as stipends for fuel reimbursement to retain volunteers.
	Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.
	Pursue budget options for corporate sponsorship for such things as stipends for fuel reimbursement to retain volunteers.
	Increase volunteers contributions in an effort to double 2004 contributions.
	Collaborate with Division to find incentives for park management to increase park revenues.
	Publicize availability of conference room/classroom for events and conferences, and utilize the park special group use permit policy requiring a reservation/use fee.
	Upgrade gift store inventory management.
	Upgrade cash register system.
	Maintain membership in Museum Gift Store Association.
	Prepare annual sales activity report.
	Partner with All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) to raise funds through special events
	Enhance gift shop inventory and continue to partner with appropriate vendors to consign inventory in the gift shop within the guidelines of the statewide enterprise fund policies.
Natural Resource Management	Purchase 3-5 acres of private land adjacent to the entrance road at the top of the jump.
	Work with DNRC or leaseholders to revert lands to native grasslands.
	Consult with a prairie dog biologist or equivalent to document where the prairie dogs have colonized.
	Maintain raptor habitat, protect snakes and their habitat as natural control measures for mice and prairie dogs.
	Document prairie dog impacts and identify potential liabilities for the State.
Recreation Management	Implement a "Leave No Trace" educational program to minimize inappropriate resource and social impacts.
	Allow smoking only on hard surfaces and trails to protect park resources and neighboring crop lands.
	Enforce park division rule prohibiting use of all motorized vehicles for recreation purposes within the park boundaries except on park roads.
	Enforce no shooting policy in areas historically used for target shooting, such as along the switchbacks up to the jump.
	Prohibit hunting within the park.
Education and Interpretation	Continue to develop programs to take to the schools and provide programming at the park.

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY continued	
Education and Interpretation	Capitalize on the built in audience provided by the “Exploring the Big Sky” events scheduled for Great Falls in the summer of 2005.
Facilities and Services	Remove garbage from dump sites and areas used for target shooting on northeast side of park (along road switchbacks to jump); erect signs or fencing to prohibit future dumping.
	Develop a protocol for routine maintenance and janitorial needs and procedures at park facilities.
	Develop a reference guide for cyclic maintenance and how to assess, track and repair roads, buildings, utilities, water systems, vehicles and other infrastructure components; identify major maintenance projects.
	Repaint and reconfigure the parking lot to establish areas for RV's and to guide all visitors for efficient use of the lot.
	Implement visitor center planning strategy to allow parking in fields around center during special events on a rest-rotation basis and as weather conditions allow.
	Identify and address safety issue for park visitors.
	Identify and address safety issues for park staff.
	Identify staff first aid and emergency response training needs and maintain currency with required certifications.

ANNUALLY	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Develop and distribute an annual poster advertising all park events.
Financial and Human Resources	Develop and continue to update an annual list of potential intern projects.

WITHIN ONE YEAR	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Develop a marketing plan specifically for the park with the goal of increasing visitation to the park and attracting a wider audience.
	Develop and utilize a press kit to advertise the park, and its events and programs.
	Work with an advisory group to evaluate the park name to decide whether the Blackfeet word “Pis’kun” should replace “Pishkun” in the name and whether the term “Ulm” should be removed from the name.

WITHIN ONE YEAR continued	
	Schedule and advertise park events and programming of local interest.
	Determine policy to recognize and allow Native American use of specific sites to carry out traditional ceremonies.
	Coordinate one or two annual events, including an annual Pow Wow at the park in conjunction with the state annual Pow Wow schedule. These events may be produced in association with All Nations Pishkun Association
Natural Resource Management	Establish a policy for development such that building expansion and parking expansion will be designed to protect park open space and the viewshed.
	Develop a prairie dog management plan.
	Develop integrated pest control method, including impacts of current mice population controls.
Cultural Resource Management	Obtain results from past archeological investigations and utilize for current education and interpretation.
Recreation Management	Dedicate a location for and design a dance arbor within the park to provide an arena for activities such as dances, Pow wows, and speakers.
	Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on lands adjacent to the park that do not conflict with park use.
Interpretation and Education	Renew the FWP transportation grant program for schools that cannot afford the transportation costs to reach the park.
Facilities and Service	Develop integrated pest control methods for Visitor Center to protect exhibits, and limit secondary effects on wildlife species.

WITHIN TWO YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Enhance Interstate and kiosk signing to more clearly describe what can be found at the park.
	Develop the park's reputation through word of mouth.
	Provide FWP-sponsored tours of the park for Chambers of Commerce.
	Provide information on the park for hotel frontline trainings, to new businesses, and other area attractions.
	Provide staff and volunteer presentations about the park to organizations in the area.
	Secure an advertising budget to support the marketing plan.

WITHIN TWO YEARS continued	
Park Promotion and Visitation	Re-institute “Evening on the Pishkun,” perhaps through ANPA.
Financial and Human Resources	Expand the volunteer program to recruit a larger diversity in age of volunteers.
	Partner with schools and other organizations, clubs, special interest groups to produce programs, videos, and information on seasonal and project basis.
	Develop visitor use management procedures and protocol for increased number of visitors, outlining strategies for staff to manage high levels of use.
	Explore a funding partnership between FWP, tribal colleges, and the seven tribes to fund a Native American intern dedicated to the park to lead park tours and educational programming.
	Employ a full-time seasonal interpretive position to engage in park tours and educational programming at the park.
	Employ a seasonal half-time maintenance position to provide maintenance services in the visitor center and on the park grounds.
	Partner with All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) to raise funds through special events.
	Enhance the gift shop to offer tangible items to take away from the park, focusing on local craft, skill, and product.
	Concentrate on recruiting interns from area universities.
Natural Resource Management	In order to accommodate future demand for more parking, especially during special events, collaborate with local establishments to designate an off-site parking area near Interstate 15 and provide shuttle service to the park.
	Develop an integrated noxious weed control regime
	Work with ANPA, park neighbors, and other stakeholders to produce a comprehensive buffalo management plan for the park.
	Educate visitors on prairie dog management through signage.
Cultural Resource Management	Develop a comprehensive cultural resources management plan for the park.
	Obtain an inventory listing of the artifacts removed from the park and held at MSU. Work with the University to secure photo images of the collection.
	Compile and organize documents on file within FWP, SHPO and other locations to establish a research library at the park related to past archaeological work, including maps of tipi rings and drive lines, pictograph records, stone cairns, past excavations.

WITHIN TWO YEARS continued	
Cultural Resource Management	Continue to locate and map areas where buffalo bones are present below the ground surface.
	Develop enhanced educational materials that educate visitors about the importance of preserving the cultural resources and convey the irreparable loss caused by vandalism.
	Develop a vandalism prevention and detection program with protocol for investigating possible archeological resource crimes.
Recreation Management	Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on adjacent lands that do not conflict with park policies.
Interpretation and Education	Develop interpretive plan for the park based on past interpretive work at the park and recommendations in this plan.
Facilities and Service	Develop a storage facility for maintenance equipment and repair.

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Enhance some exhibits to provide new incentives to visit the park.
	Establish a “Locals Day” at the park.
	Provide limited, unobtrusive food services at the park seasonally through a vendor or pre-packaged items.
Financial and Human Resources	Provide narration in the exhibit hall through audiotapes and headsets.
	Provide video for populations that have trouble physically experiencing the park.
	Develop a pamphlet that describes cultural and natural resources at Ulm Pishkun for visitors to refer to when visiting the cliff.
Natural Resource Management	Fence the park boundaries accurately.
	Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park.
	Conduct a professional plant assessment of the park landscape.
	Inventory plants, including grasses and wildflowers, currently at the park.
	Provide a professional opinion of what the landscape looked like during the buffalo jump era.
	Identify and map noxious weed areas.

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS continued	
Natural Resource Management	Determine acreage of agricultural land and feasibility of returning to native species.
	Based on the assessment, create a vision for the landscape and a plan for attaining vision.
	If a comprehensive buffalo plan is approved by FWP, add a small herd of live buffalo to the park for the high use season.
	Change interpretive messages to include live buffalo.
	Develop comprehensive resource management plan for park wildlife species
	Inventory fauna in park.
	Consider visitor safety around high use areas where higher control methods of potentially dangerous species (rattlesnakes) may be needed.
	Analyze grazing potential and feasibility with other park goals as a means of reducing fire fuels.
Cultural Resource Management	Develop and implement preservation plans for cultural resources.
	Develop a plan for pictograph preservation.
	Work with archeologists to document potential new research on the lands in and surrounding the park.
Recreation Management	Coordinate with ANPA to seek funding for the arbor facility.
	Develop a design for a group use shelter that complements dance arbor design.
	Actively encourage and work with private enterprises to develop camping within the Ulm area.
	Develop guidelines to allow primitive camping in designated areas of the park during special events only.
	Determine potential for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail development in other areas of the park that won't conflict with existing uses and viewsheds.
Interpretation and Education	Integrate the interpretive program with State curriculum objectives and benchmarks for subjects.
Facilities and Service	Utilize land off-site for additional parking during special events.

WITHIN FIVE TO TEN YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Utilize any future active archeological research to promote the park on a national scale.
Financial and Human Resources	Strive for sixty volunteers contributing 3,500 hours annually, or double contributions.
Natural Resource Management	Investigate possibilities for purchasing rights on the state lands for uses inconsistent with park goals.
	Investigate means to turn the state lands into part of the park through land exchanges or purchases.
	Partner with land conservation organizations to establish easements to protect the viewshed.
Cultural Resource Management	Plan and coordinate an archeological investigation.
	Develop cooperative relationships with Native American and other schools wherein students can participate in archeological investigations.
	Consult with archeologists about a potential permanent archeological research site reproduction that contains interpretive information about methods and tools.
	Utilize results of additional archeological investigations to develop enhanced educational materials and resources that build on the considerable archeological information that already exists for Ulm Pishkun.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee Membership

Planning Committee Public Members

Mary Anne Cosgrove

Gayle Fisher

Jack Fisher

Brad Hamlett

Ed Hastings

Lyle Heavyrunner

Cindy Kittredge

Chuck Niswanger

Fay Schaller

Planning Committee FWP Members

Faith Robertson, Region Four

Kirsten Shelton, Helena

Ulm Pishkun Management Plan Draft Committee Charter

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has begun the process of developing a long-range, comprehensive management plan for Ulm Pishkun State Park. This plan will be written in order to create a framework in which specific management activities will be proposed and implemented over the next ten years. A citizen-based committee will be formed to assist in an advisory capacity in the drafting of this plan. Non-FWP committee members will be selected to represent a diversity of park users and interests. The committee will include FWP members and the process will be facilitated by a member of the Helena Parks Division management team. Additional FWP employees may be consulted for specific information pertaining to park resources.

The mission of the management plan committee will be to identify park issues and trends, and to formulate management recommendations for addressing them. The committee will be asked to identify and develop recommendations from a balanced perspective, considering funding, staff, resource needs, and community desires.

Committee recommendations will be used by FWP management to develop the management plan that will guide future projects and activities at Ulm Pishkun. These recommendations will not be binding, as FWP is ultimately responsible for the management of the park, but they will be crucial in helping FWP to meet the needs and desires of Ulm Pishkun's constituency.

Committee members will be asked to commit to monthly meetings from September of 2003 through March of 2004. Meetings will be scheduled to accommodate member schedules as much as possible. Utilizing the input from these meetings, FWP will draft a management plan during this period, with a first draft being completed in April 2004 for the committee's review. A second draft will be available for public comment in April 2004. A final management plan will be delivered to the FWP director for approval by June 2004.

APPENDIX B: 2003 VISITOR SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Visitor Demographics

The Ulm Pishkun State Park 2003 Visitor Survey provides useful information on visitor demographics. Sixty-percent (60%) of survey respondents were non-residents and 40% were residents. The majority, 72%, of respondents visited the park with their family, while 14% visited the park with friends, and 10% visited alone. On average, respondents visited the park with 2.8 persons per vehicle.

Visitation Trends

Visitors found out about the park through a variety of sources, the most frequent being family or friends, travel brochures, road signs, and living nearby. For half of survey respondents, the park visit was one of several destinations, and the park was not a planned destination for another 31% of respondents. Ninety percent (90%) of respondents visited the park once in the past year. Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents spent 2 hours at the park and 39% of respondents spent one hour at the park.

Visitor Activities

A majority of respondents visited the Visitor Center and the Top of the Jump. Approximately half of all respondents visited the park trails. Respondent activities at the park demonstrate the interpretive emphasis at Ulm Pishkun. While in the park, the top five respondent activities were visiting the interpretive hall (88%), enjoying the views (85%), reading interpretive signing (83%), using the interpretive trail at the top of the jump (74%), and visiting the archeology display room (62%). Ten percent (10%) of respondents requested additional services and activities at the park. These services included programming (3%) and video interpretation (3%).

Visitor Satisfaction

Overall, 95% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with their visit to the park. A majority of respondents were satisfied with park services and amenities identified in the survey. Among those services and amenities, respondents were most satisfied with park cleanliness, staff service, and restrooms and least satisfied with park trails, tours, and the gift shop. Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified amenities or services that could improve their satisfaction. These included changes to the signs and displays (2%) and a variety of other suggestions. The top three amenities respondents liked most about the park were information and displays (21%), views and scenery (16%), and the Jump itself (15%). The three amenities respondents liked least about the park were the weather (11%), improvement needs at the Top of the Jump (3%), and the rattlesnakes (3%).

Other Comments

Twenty seven percent (27%) of respondents provided “other” comments in the space provided on the survey. Those comments included 14% of respondents who enjoyed a positive experience at the park. A variety of other comments (all totaling less than 3% of total responses) included suggestions for improvement in education and interpretation, trail improvements, and requests for live buffalo.

APPENDIX C: MONTANA STATE PARK HUNTING POLICY

1) State parks are closed to hunting except for those circumstances identified in section 3 of this policy. Signs informing the public of the particular state park hunting, firearms discharge or archery equipment rule will follow the FWP *Sign Manual* and will be placed near park entrances and as otherwise appropriate. Safety zones must be marked at least during hunting seasons. In no case will hunting be allowed in state parks lying within community jurisdictional boundaries.

2) Definitions.

- A. “Department” means the state department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).
- B. “Director” means the director, FWP.
- C. “State Park” means an area managed by FWP for outdoor recreation, historic or cultural preservation, public education, and which is listed in FWP’s *Montana State Park Brochure*.
- D. “Hunting” means to pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture or the act of a person possessing a weapon, as defined in 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting, wounding, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife of this state in any location that wildlife may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take by any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or capturing.
- E. “Depredation Hunting” means special conditional hunting approved by the director to control wildlife populations that exceed carrying capacity and are damaging the natural or cultural environment or are causing depredation to private property as a result of closure.
- F. “Safety Zones” are those lands and waters within state park boundaries that are closed to the discharge of firearms and archery equipment and closed to hunting as posted.

3) The director may allow hunting in a state park or portion thereof if the state park meets one or more of the following conditions:

- A. Hunting has historically occurred in that state park or was included in the original intent of the park land purchase.
- B. Depredation hunting upon recommendation and documentation of FWP biologists and/or game wardens where game populations exceed carrying capacity and are damaging the natural or cultural environment or causing depredation to adjoining private lands as a result of closure.
- C. Not part of a safety zone.
- D. Hunting does not conflict with and is compatible with state park purposes and does not create unsafe conditions for state park visitors as determined by the appropriate state park manager.

4) The director may restrict hunting in a state park or portion thereof if hunting conflicts with or is not compatible with state park purposes and causes unsafe conditions for state park visitors as determined by the appropriate state park manager.

5) If newly acquired lands are added to a park, if a new park is added to the system, or if the uses of a park significantly change, a specific evaluation, involving public input, will be made and the director will decide if, or under what conditions, hunting is to be allowed. Public input will include notice of proposed action and the opportunity for public comment on the advisability and acceptability of the proposal.

Parks historically open to hunting include:

Council Grove State Park - restricted to archery and waterfowl only
Bannack State Park - 958 acres open, historic closed
Beaverhead Rock State Park
Madison Buffalo Jump State Park
Missouri Headwaters State Park
Parker Homestead State Park
Ackley Lake State Park
Giant Springs State Park - waterfowl only adjacent to river
Sluice Boxes State Park
Ulm Pishkun State Park
Cooney Reservoir State Park - 80 acres on west side open for hunting
Hell Creek State Park
Makoshika State Park
Medicine Rocks State Park
Pirogue Island State Park - restricted to archery and shotgun only
Rosebud Battlefield State Park
Tongue River State Park
Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park – Back NW area of the park

For more information regarding hunting in State Parks, please contact the Regional Park offices at:

Region 1 – 406-752-5501
Region 2 – 406-542-5500
Region 3 – 406-994-4042
Region 4 – 406-454-5840
Region 5 – 406-247-2940
Region 6 – 406-228-3700
Region 7 – 406-232-0900

**APPENDIX D: ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES REGARDING ULM PISHKUN
STATE PARK**

A Study of the Archaeology of the Vicinity of Great Falls, Shumate, Maynard; 1950.

Aerial Photogrammetry of Stone Circles and Piled Stone Alignments at the Ulm Pishkun State Monument, Davis Leslie. Found in *Megaliths to Medicine Wheels: Boulder Structures in Archaeology*, Davis, Leslie and Robert Carrol, published by the Archeological Association of the University of Calgary.

Archaeological Excavations at Ulm Pishkun State Monument, During the Summer of 1993: A Preliminary Summary Report, Fisher, John and Roll, Tom; March 1994.

Analysis of Archaeological Materials from Ulm Pishkun Buffalo Kill (24CA1012), Fisher, John W.; May, 1995.